Questions and Answers Relating to the DRRC RON-3

Last update: February 16, 2007

Q1. Are you going to look at the types of pre-proposals submitted and suggest collaborations with other teams or suggest strengthening the proposal?

A1. Yes.

Q2. Question regarding theme and focus of work. On the general theme of "what motivates", is it important for the work to be done by a California team?

A2. No, but it needs to either have a California focus to the study or justify how research will benefit California itself.

Q3. In next series of studies, would it be helpful to have different research teams share a control group - in order to have a larger sample?

A3. Interesting idea.

Q4. What should the scale of the study (large vs. small) be?

A4. The goal is to get answers to fundamental questions. It can be done, typically, by going deeper into a focused issue or less deep across a wide-ranging study—this RON would probably favor the former.

Q5. Are there widespread media materials being used in California to promote DR issues that could serve as a basis for analysis?

A5. There isn't common messaging nor a broad campaign, though there is Flex Your Power and other small utility-specific campaigns. Some people are working with Flex your Power regarding evaluation - there are some private websites, no public.

Q6. Is there any wiggle room to start research projects earlier? Concern about schedule when focusing on summer months

A6. We could perhaps shorten the time in the contracting period to award earlier.

Q7. Can scope include non-participants? For example, perspective on DR, operations, why are consumers not motivated, etc., to participate in DR programs?

A7. Yes.

Q8. Does the research have to be on California customers, or can it look at other states or nationwide?

A8. Some research questions can be conducted anywhere, but there are California-specific programs. Could imagine a non-California project that looked at the impacts on California customers.

Q9. What is the level of funding anticipated?

A9. See solicitation - $520K total, award 2-3 projects from $150k to $250k each.

Q10. If intellectual property (IP) is developed, who owns it?

A10. We don't anticipate IP being developed under these projects. If it was, small companies own the IP and there are also licensing agreements. This would be considered when the contract is awarded by LBNL.

Q11. Is it possible to piggyback efforts on evaluation contract work?

A11. Yes.

Q12. What's the relative importance of Residential vs. Commercial in terms of priorities within the solicitation? Is total effect on grid part of the criteria?

A12. There is no bias towards one sector over another - the potential impact of the research on peak demand and the grid will be considered along with a number of other factors.

Q13. Could you include the following reference to your bibliography:

"Working Group 2 2005 Demand Response Evaluation Final Report, Evaluation of 2005 Statewide Large Nonresidential Day-Ahead and Reliability Demand Response Programs," prepared by Quantum Consulting Inc.

A13. Consider this the equivalent to an addition to the bibliography, and the report can be downloaded at:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/demandresponse/documents/index.html#group2

Q.14 How will the [Research Summary, i.e., Pre-proposal] process go forward? Will we interact about the research summary with Q and A?

A.14 The process for going forward is planned as follows:

1. After all pre-proposals are received (2/21), they will be reviewed and assigned into three categories: High, Medium, and Low.

2. Proposals in High will be asked to submit a full proposal.

3. Proposals in Medium will be given feedback on how to strengthen their proposal, followed by a phone call to discuss suggestions.

4. Proposals in Low will be given feedback on why their proposal is not appropriate for this solicitation.